



Louis J. Chiatalas

February 3, 1935 - May 4, 2021

Louis John Chiatalas, age 86, passed away at his home on May 4, 2021. His wife of 64 years, Marguerite E. (Dowd) was by his side. Louis is also survived by his five children, John (Nancy) Chiatalas, Tom (Cindy) Chiatalas, Jamie (the late William) Claypool, Mia (David) Donoghue, Pericles (Kim) Chiatalas, and many Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents, John and Styliane Tsiatalas and his five siblings. “Lou”, as he was affectionately called by many, never forgot his childhood and life in Greece and remained close with his Greek relatives and maintained the ancestral home in Rendina that he was born in.

Lou was blessed with high mechanical aptitude and took a keen interest in building things with the village carpenter, even before immigrating to Bay City, Michigan with his family in 1947. He loved understanding how things worked. He learned to speak more English while going to the movies near his family’s restaurant and eventually spoke with no hint of an accent. He opened and closed the family diner daily while earning high marks at Bay City Central High School while also serving on the student body Supreme Court. He excelled in sports as a two-way football player for the vaunted Wolves as well as basketball and track. He enjoyed a job well-done, friendly athletic competition after a day’s work and good food, lots of it.

Lou loved automobiles and won a competitive scholarship to study engineering at General Motors Institute of Technology (now Kettering University) sponsored by the Bay City Chevrolet Plant. He made the most of

his training at GM then in 1967 moved his family downstate to join Ford Motor Company where he progressed in its managerial ranks. He undertook foreign assignments in several countries after retiring from Ford that landed him in Pakistan, Japan, China and Australia. He also restored two antique automobiles with his sons' help that are maintained proudly to this day. Together, Louis and Marguerite instilled their love of family, Church, heritage, and travel in their children. The Church was very important in Lou's life and was never far from his thoughts.

He was President of the St Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Saginaw MI before moving in 1967 and setting up roots in Plymouth MI, where Lou and his family became members of the St Nicholas community in Ann Arbor MI. He became President for several years in the 70s where Lou and his family attended every Sunday. Lou helped lay the groundwork for the successful parish Greek festivals of 70s as well as the expansion of the former church on Main Street. Lou's passion for his Church, and his village Rendina were instilled in his children and inspired them in turn to be leaders of the Church, builders of our new church and festival, and rebuilding the ancestral home in 2000 like an episode of "This Old House".

Lou was able to do so many things, he was that low percentage of engineers that actually had street smarts and not just book smarts. Lou could make or fix anything, whether it was metal, wood (his favorite), or a furrowed brow of one of his kids. He planted every tree at the home in Plymouth as well as countless expansion projects, not only at his home, but those of his children as well. He never stopped trying to help wherever, whenever he could. Lou's job took him to practically every corner of the Earth, which in turn he was able to take his family to many of them. These trips allowed for a true hands-on view of the world and a perspective that you cannot get from a newspaper or classroom. This was not lost on his children, and they carry these lessons and memories forever.

Lou's biggest joy in life was his family and sharing his life with them. Lou made it a point to make sure his siblings and families were seen regularly and

that his family and extended families were interwoven into a wonderful fabric of love. His life well-lived set an everlasting impression on them that will be held close to their hearts for as long as they live, and in turn passed on to the generations to come.

Everlasting be the memory of dear Lou, a loving husband, son, brother, father, Grand and Great Grandfather and friend to many. You were loved so very much and will be painfully missed.

Visitation Thursday, May 6th 4-8 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Road West, (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. Trisagion Service 7:30 PM. In state Friday, May 7th 10:30 AM until the 11 AM Funeral Service at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 3109 Scio Church Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Interment Bethlehem Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Nicholas Iconography fund c/o St. Nicholas Church. To share a memory, please use the Share a Memory tab on this web page.

Cemetery Details

Bethlehem Cemetery

2531 Jackson Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 6. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

In state

MAY 7. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
3109 Scio Church Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Funeral Service

MAY 7. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
3109 Scio Church Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Tribute Wall



“ *Louis J. Chiatas*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Effie Metropoulos - May 06, 2021 at 01:06 PM



“ *Uncle Louis (Θείος Ηλίας) was a force. My fondest memories will b when we were all together in Rentina, Karditsa, Thessalia in Greece at his home with his family the summer of 2011. Those of you who were there at that same time know exactly what I'm referring to. It's sad to lose someone but his accomplished legacy was of family & heritage pride of both within the USA & Greece intertwined. Through speaking about him and mentioning his name, his memory will be eternal. Αιώνια του η μνήμη . With great admiration & fondness, nephew Vasílios Christofilakos, NYC and my Mom, Louis's cousin, Sophia Sakellariou- Matsukas Christofilakos , Rentina & NYC .*

Vasi Fit - May 06, 2021 at 10:50 AM

EM

“ to θείο, so many memories and so much to say! What a difference one person can make in the world. You and our irreplaceable θεία changed our lives so much, we cannot imagine how it would have been without the two of you. All the hard work you both did to give joy to others and to hold the extended family together (so much driving!). The Easter lambs, showing up hours early to get seats at services in the old Ann Arbor church, trips to Bay City State Park or Tony's or the other local party spots. And there for the tough times too. You taught us about what really matters in life. We wish you had more quality time, but the memories are forever. With heartfelt prayers and all our love to the family,

Έφη (Φούλα)

Αικατερίνη (μπούλ)

And with love from Terry and Richard, Chloe and Miranda



Effie Metropoulos - May 06, 2021 at 09:13 AM

KA

“ Remembering Lou and the entire Chiatlas family over many years passed. I know he will be deeply missed by all of you and pray that you will be comforted by so many loving memories. Sending my love and wishes for peace....Kathy Ayers, Colonial Card and Von Maur

Kathleen Ayers - May 05, 2021 at 11:30 PM

WF

“ *William and Barbara Bowles and Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Louis J. Chiatalas.*



William and Barbara Bowles and Family - May 05, 2021 at 10:05 PM

PS

“ *Prime HealthCare Staffing purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Louis J. Chiatalas.*



Prime HealthCare Staffing - May 05, 2021 at 12:42 PM

IK

“ *Irene Kokkales lit a candle in memory of Louis J. Chiatalas*



Irene Kokkales - May 05, 2021 at 11:24 AM

IK

“ *Powerful, strong man, devoted father, committed to his faith and proud of his Greek heritage. A pillar of the St. Nicholas Greek community. My memories of him are all happy because he was the Dad of of my dear childhood friends, Jamie and Mia. I remember the coziness of their house, always good smells of something cooking, gathered in the kitchen at the table. laughter and joyful conversation... cute brothers! Memories frozen in time. This is a sad time but the silver lining is seeing people not seen in decades and the reliving of fond memories, old history, happier times. Rest in Power Mr. Chiatalas. That's my most outstanding memory, a powerful, strong leader yet gentle and kind man. Condolences to the Chiatalas family - Irene Kokkales*



Irene Kokkales - May 05, 2021 at 11:11 AM

GM

“ *Gus & Lannette Moutos purchased the Love Ever lasting Bouquet for the family of Louis J. Chiatalas.*



Gus & Lannette Moutos - May 05, 2021 at 10:49 AM